>

Title: Need to review the norms for identification of BPL families in a scientific manner with a view to cover all the deserving families - Laid.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): I would like to invite the attention of the Government to some serious issues not only in Kerala but also in various states of our country. The norms prescribed by the Planning Commission and the Central Government to identify the BPL family is not at all scientific. This causes much hardship to the poor people even to the people who belong to the SC/ST categories. This is true in the case of all states. Planning Commission & Central Government hasn't made any deep study in determining the BPL families. The norms prescribed in the all India level also don't reflect the actual situation in each state. As a result, large number of families are excluded from the BPL list. The quota fixed by Central Government to each State has no validity at all. The poor families, even belonging to SC/ST families are denied benefits of various schemes. This is true in the case of the allotment of foodgrain to the State of Kerala and many other States. The Government of India estimated BPL families in Kerala 15.54 lakhs but the actual number of BPL families in the state as on August 2002 was 20.22 lakhs. Kerala has the right to get 58.273 metric tones of foodgrain. But the allotment is only 41.824 metric tones. So the Government has to allot food grains at BPL rates to all identified BPL families by the State. The Central Government must also take steps to change the norms in order to give benefit to the deserving families.